

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD &

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION



FOR

TEXAS VETERANS
Benefits & Services

1 ★ 800 ★ 252 ★ VETS

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WWW.TEXASVETERANS.COM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

Fellow Veterans:

Since 1836, Texas has always taken care of her veterans. Today, the Veterans Land Board (VLB) and the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) serve over 1.7 million veterans of all ages. Together with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), we are a one-stop shop for the best veterans programs and services in the nation and we offer a wide array of special benefits available exclusively to Texas veterans. You have served your country and now Texas is proud to serve you. Please take a moment to look through this brochure to learn how to take advantage of the benefits you have earned.

Thank you for your service,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Patterson".

Jerry Patterson
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC (Retired)
Chairman, Texas Veterans Land Board



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen S. Rankin".

Karen S. Rankin
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
Chair, Texas Veterans Commission



☆ TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD PROGRAMS ☆

The Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) was established in 1946 to help Texas veterans returning from World War II by giving them the opportunity to own their own piece of Texas. Today, no other state can match what the Texas Veterans Land Board offers: low-cost land, home and home improvement loans; nursing homes and cemeteries—all exclusively for Texas veterans or their spouses and at virtually no cost to the Texas taxpayer. The VLB is not the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VLB offers separate state benefits for Texas veterans.



VETERANS LOANS

The cornerstone of the Texas Veterans Land Board is its ability to offer unique, below-market interest rate loans. **Texas Veterans Loan Programs** have given thousands of veterans the opportunity to enjoy the American dream they worked so hard to defend.

- ★ **LAND LOANS** – Up to \$80,000, one acre minimum
- ★ **HOUSING LOANS** – Up to \$325,000
- ★ **HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS** – Up to \$25,000

VETERANS HOMES

The **Texas State Veterans Home Program** offers affordable, long-term nursing care for Texas veterans, their spouses and Gold Star Parents. Texas veterans can now receive the professional care they deserve in the company of fellow veterans. The Texas State Veterans Home Program fulfills our debt of honor to the Texas men and women who risked their lives for our freedom. This is where honor lives.

Ussery-Roan – AMARILLO ★ **Clyde W. Cosper – BONHAM**
Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez – BIG SPRING ★ **Frank M. Tejeda – FLORESVILLE**
Ambrosio Guillen – EL PASO ★ **Alfredo Gonzalez – MCALLEN**
William R. Courtney – TEMPLE

VETERANS CEMETERIES

All veterans deserve a dignified place of rest in memory of their service to their state and nation. The **Texas State Veterans Cemetery Program** seeks to supplement the four VA National Cemeteries in Texas by providing state-managed perpetual shrines for veterans near family and friends. Eventually, Texas could have up to seven state veterans cemeteries.

Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery ★ **KILLEEN**
Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery ★ **MISSION**
Texas State Veterans Cemetery ★ **ABILENE**
Cemetery coming to Corpus Christi (2011)



For more information on any of these programs, please contact the Texas Veterans Land Board

1-800-252-VETS

www.texasveterans.com

☆ THE TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION ☆

The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) is a state agency that assists Texas veterans, their dependents and survivors, in accessing a wide range of state and federal benefits including educational assistance, development and representation in VA claims, job search and job placement. Through its programs and services, the TVC is committed to aiding veterans in obtaining the rights and benefits they have earned.



VETERANS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Texas Veterans Commission is the Texas State Approving Agency (SAA) for the **Veterans Education Program** and for GI Bill educational benefits. The TVC reviews, evaluates, approves and oversees quality programs of education and training for payment of benefits to veterans.

Approved training programs are offered at public institutions (including universities, junior/community colleges, hospitals, police/fire academies and technical institutions) and non public schools (including cosmetology/barber, Bible, flight and other vocational schools). Veterans may also receive benefits while completing apprenticeships and on-the-job training (OJT) programs.

A list of institutions/employers with approved programs, approval information and Request for Approval forms are available on the TVC Web site at www.tvc.state.tx.us, under the Veterans Education Program link.

THE TEXAS HAZLEWOOD ACT

What is the Hazlewood Act? This act is a veterans education benefit of up to 150 hours of tuition at a state supported college or university.

To be eligible, veterans must:

- ☆ Be a Texas resident upon entry into the military service;
- ☆ Be a current Texas resident for tuition purposes;
- ☆ Have served at least 181 days active duty service;
- ☆ Have a military discharge of honorable or general, under honorable conditions;
- ☆ Not be in default on a federal education loan or student loan made or guaranteed by the State of Texas.

How do I claim this benefit? Contact the registrar or veterans office of the school you plan to attend.

For more information on the Texas Hazlewood Act please visit www.tvc.state.tx.us.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The **Veterans Employment Services Program** serves veterans seeking assistance in employment, job training, job matching, resume writing and other career assistance through local Veterans Employment Representatives, located in more than 75 cities throughout Texas. Representatives provide one-on-one assistance to help match veteran job seekers with the best employment opportunities available. In addition, employers are matched with qualified veterans who possess numerous unique abilities gained through their military service. For assistance, veterans may visit with a Veterans Employment Representative at their local Workforce Center or register online at www.workintexas.com.



CLAIMS REPRESENTATION & COUNSELING

The Texas Veterans Commission is the designated agency for representing the State of Texas and its veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Our **Claims Representation & Counseling Program** provides assistance to veterans with every aspect of the claims process for obtaining benefits from the VA. This includes initial filing of claims, compiling additional evidence or documentation required by the VA, appealing VA decisions and providing representation at VA hearings if necessary. Through its statewide network of specially trained veterans counselors, the TVC works with veterans to ensure the best possible chance of ultimately having their claims approved.



TEXAS WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM

A full continuum of comprehensive medical services is available to women veterans through the **Texas Women Veterans Program**, including health promotion and disease prevention, primary care and women's gender-specific health care, e.g., hormone replacement therapy, breast and gynecological care, maternity and limited infertility (excluding in-vitro fertilization), acute medical/surgical, telephone triage, emergency and substance abuse treatment, mental health, domiciliary, rehabilitation and long-term care. Applications for enrollment in VA health care may be obtained from any VA health care facility or veterans benefits office. Call toll-free at 1-877-222 VETS (8387) to determine your eligibility or access the form from the Health Administration Eligibility Reform Web site at www.va.gov/elig.





Every veteran has a story to tell. The Texas Veterans Land Board "Voices of Veterans" Oral History Program seeks to capture these stories to teach future generations of Texans the importance of patriotism, self-sacrifice and service to others. These stories of courage and service will inspire Texans for generations to come.

Interviews may be conducted in person or by telephone. To schedule an interview, call or log on to the Web site.

1-800-252-VETS
www.voicesofveterans.org

VETERANS PREFERENCE & MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT

Wartime veterans have preference in employment with state agencies or offices, as do widows/ widowers and children of those killed on active duty. State agencies must practice veterans preference until they have reached 40 percent veteran employment. Non-retiree veterans who are employed by the State of Texas are entitled to claim their active duty military time toward retirement. All veterans may also use their military time toward retirement if they are members of the State Teachers Retirement System.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Veterans with disability ratings of 10 percent or more are eligible for property tax exemptions on the appraised value of their property. Applications must be filed between January 1 and April 30. Contact your local appraisal district office for an application.

FREE RECORDING OF DISCHARGES

The county clerk in each county is required to record, free of charge, the official discharge papers (DD Form 214) of a veteran who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Once filed, it will be-

come a confidential record for 75 years, providing veterans with a ready source from which they can obtain a certified copy of their discharge when needed.

DISABILITY

At least 10%, but less than 30%
 At least 30%, but less than 50%
 At least 50%, but less than 70%
 70% and over
 100%

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

First \$5,000 of appraised value
 First \$7,500 of appraised value
 First \$10,000 of appraised value
 First \$12,000 of appraised value
 100% of appraised value

The following qualify for maximum exemption:

Any veteran who is 65 years of age or older with a disability rating of 10 percent or higher.

Any veteran whose disability consists of the loss of use of one or more limbs or total blindness in one or both eyes.



NO COST MEDICAL RECORDS

Texas veterans are eligible for no cost medical records when they are obtained to file a claim for a disability against the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The health care provider or health care facility is not required to provide more than one complete record for the patient or former patient without charge. Some medical facilities may charge a small administrative fee for obtaining the records.



STATE LICENSE BENEFITS



As a disabled veteran you may be entitled to certain license benefits. To obtain license benefits, veterans must show official proof of their disability rating (issued by the VA) at the time of application.



SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

- ☆ **Who is eligible?** Applicants must have been honorably discharged. Additional guidelines and fees vary per individual plate. Contact the nearest title registration office or county tax office for information or visit Texas Online at www.texasonline.state.tx.us.
- ☆ **What are the restrictions?** Special license plates are for personal use on an automobile or light commercial vehicle of one ton or less.
- ☆ **How can I get one?** Applications are available by calling the Texas Department of Transportation at 512-374-5010.



FREE DRIVERS LICENSES

- ☆ **Who is eligible?** Any honorably discharged veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 60 percent or more, who receives compensation from the United States for the disability. Registered sex offenders are not eligible.
- ☆ **What are the restrictions?** Exemption does not apply to a Texas Identification Card or a Texas Commercial Drivers License.
- ☆ **How can I get one?** Applications are available from the Department of Public Safety's license examining offices. For locations call 512-424-2600 or go to www.txdps.state.tx.us.



FREE FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSES

- ☆ **Who is eligible?** Any veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 60 percent or more, or a disability consisting of the loss of a foot or leg, and who is receiving compensation from the United States for that disability.
- ☆ **What are the restrictions?** The free license is limited to license Type 502: Resident Disabled Veteran "Super Combo" Hunting and All-Water Fishing Package. The Federal Waterfowl Stamp is not included.
- ☆ **How can I get one?** Reduced cost hunting and fishing licenses can be obtained anywhere such licenses are sold. For more information contact the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department at 1-800-792-1112 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us.



FREE STATE PARK ADMISSION WITH THE TEXAS PARKLANDS PASSPORT

- ☆ **Who is eligible?** Any veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 60 percent or more.
- ☆ **What are the restrictions?** The Passport is available to any veteran who meets the requirements, whether or not the veteran resides in Texas. The Passport does not exempt veterans from payment of other charges, such as camping fees.
- ☆ **How can I get one?** Application for the Texas Parklands Passport can be made at the headquarters office of any Texas State Park. For more information, contact the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department at 1-800-792-1112 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us.



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www.texasveterans.com



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Austin, Texas 78711-2873

Texas Veterans Commission
P.O. Box 12277
Austin, Texas 78711-2277

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